

## STETHOSCOPE EMOJI PROPOSAL



Submitted by:  
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### **ABSTRACT:**

This proposal is to request the inclusion of a **STETHOSCOPE** emoji, representing the popular acoustic medical device for listening to the internal sounds of an animal or human body, but often used to listen to lung and heart sounds.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The **STETHOSCOPE**, created in 1816 by René Laennec, has been around for over 200 years and is often considered as a symbol of healthcare professionals, as various healthcare providers are often seen or depicted with stethoscopes hanging around their necks. A 2012 research paper<sup>1</sup> claimed that the stethoscope, when compared to other medical equipment, had the highest positive impact on the perceived trustworthiness of the practitioner seen with it.

Today anyone who wants to illustrate 'a doctor' will include a stethoscope, it has become the iconic symbol of the doctor. In fact, when Unicode Technical Committee was debating the ZWJ sequence for HEALTH WORKER, it lamented the absence of a STETHOSCOPE emoji and had to settle for emojifying the STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS (🏥)

In 1958, the stethoscope was named in a novel<sup>2</sup> by Indian activist, Mahatma Gandhi, in which he stated: *"A perfect mind comes from a perfect heart, not the heart known by a doctor's stethoscope but the heart which is the seat of God."*

In 2016, Google<sup>3</sup> released a doodle celebrating the 235th anniversary of inventor, René Laennec's birth and celebrating 200 years since the invention of the stethoscope.

## 2. IMAGES



*Images by Aphelandra Messer. They may be freely distributed in connection with this proposal.*

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<sup>1</sup> [JMIR-Impact of the Presence of Medical Equipment in Images on Viewers' Perceptions of the Trustworthiness of an Individual On-Screen - Jiwa - Journal of Medical Internet Research](#) . *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. Retrieved 6 Jan 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Light of India: The Message of the Mahatma

<sup>3</sup> [Google Doodle -2016, René Laennec, 200 years of the stethoscope](#)

### 3.1 CLDR Short Names

Recommended names: STETHOSCOPE

### 3.2 CLDR Keywords

Recommended keywords: stethoscope

## 4. SELECTION FACTORS - INCLUSION

### A. COMPATIBILITY

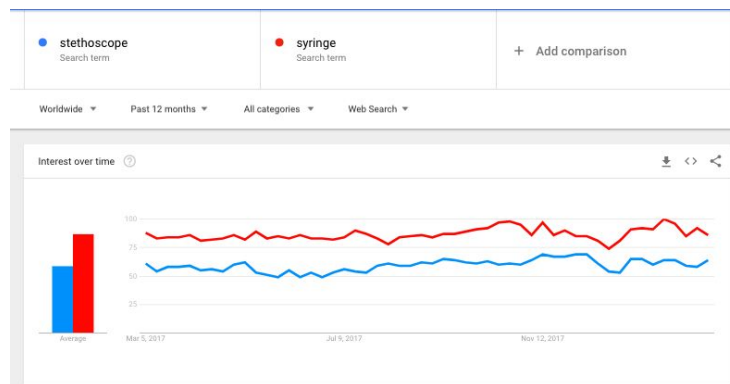
This is a new emoji for inclusion in Unicode and then other systems. It will contribute to the usages defined below. There is an existing HEALTH WORKER emoji wearing a stethoscope, but this is used to depict a doctor or medical professional and not the standalone stethoscope.

### B. EXPECTED USAGE LEVEL

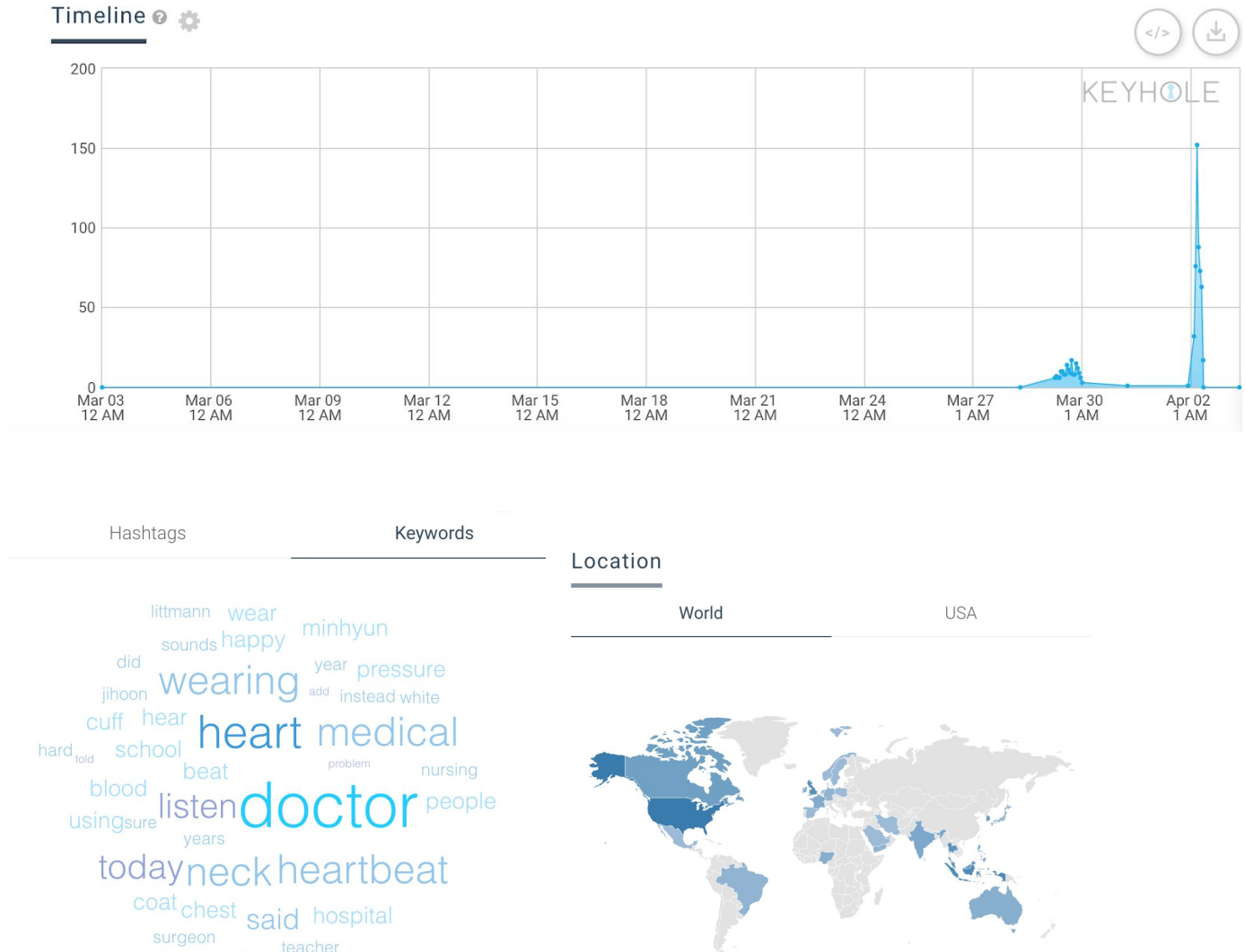
#### Frequency:

The expected usage of a stethoscope emoji is high as shown below:

- As of 3/29/2018, when searching Instagram with the #stethoscope there are over 137,000 posts referencing the hashtag
- As of 3/29/2018, when searching 'stethoscope' on YouTube there are over 85k videos
- Usage of this emoji will be widespread and global as it is a common and immediately recognizable item that is used daily by billions of professionals worldwide.
- A search of "stethoscope" in comparison to the medical device "syringe" on Google trends shows a comparable demand for the stethoscope.



- A search on Twitter for the last 60 days (March 3 - April 2) reveals the use of the term 'stethoscope' in over 600 posts in various parts of the world and use of the associated keywords: listen, heartbeat, blood, neck, sounds, etc as highlighted by the charts below







**Cute Baby Animals**  
@OMGBabyAnimals

Follow

Baby gorilla reacts to a cold stethoscope.



10:33 PM - 17 Dec 2016

685 Retweets 1,243 Likes



11 685 1.2K



**James Breakwell**  
@XplodingUnicorn

Follow

3-year-old: \*listens to my chest with a toy stethoscope\*

Me: What's in there?

3: Bees.

I want a second opinion.

5:30 PM - 29 Mar 2018

924 Retweets 8,510 Likes



35 924 8.5K



**넬이 사랑해**  
@dnieitwts

Follow

look at this 8 (28) and 3 (23) years old boys playing with stethoscope



6:15 PM - 1 Apr 2018

636 Retweets 573 Likes



**Medical world.**  
@Great\_Magic1

Follow

Always remember to warm the stethoscope before placing it on the patient 😂❤️

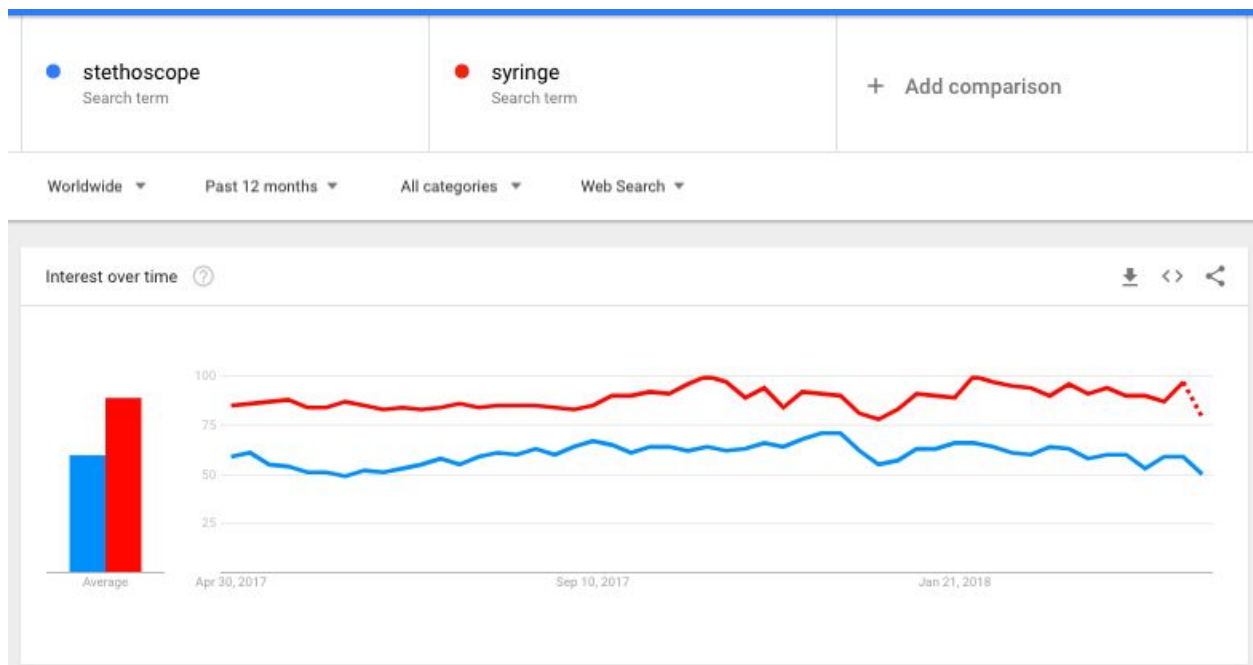


10:36 PM - 13 Mar 2018

## Frequency Data:

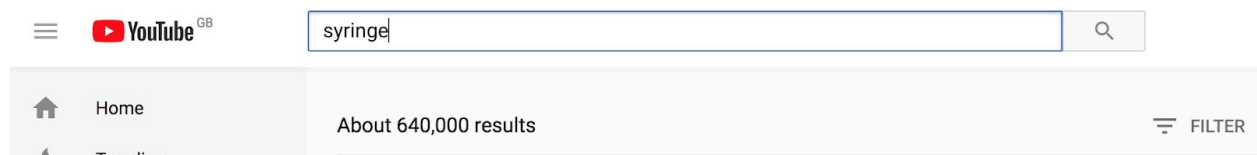
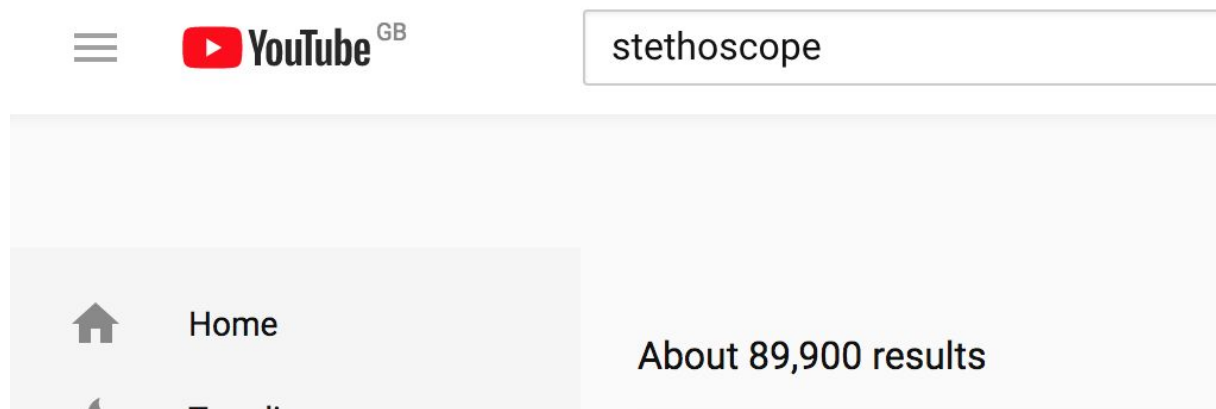
The following search results provide the data requested in the “Evidence of Frequency” section for submitting emoji proposals and all searches were completed in a private browser window. We have compared the terms ‘stethoscope’ for the proposed emoji and ‘syringe’ for the comparison existing emoji. The suggested examples from the sample “Evidence of Frequency” list do not fit the requirements for stethoscope, but ‘syringe’ is a closely aligned search term for the existing emoji and is more relevant to the proposed emoji.

- Google Trends web and image searches for “stethoscope” and “syringe”

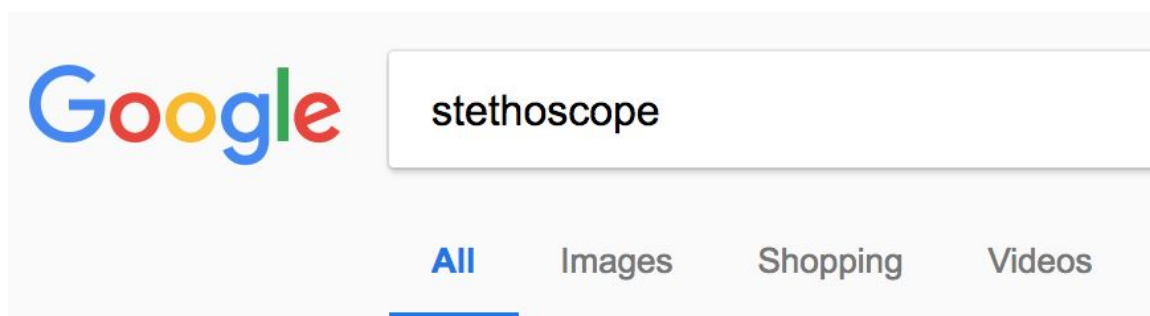


- YouTube, Google, Bing and Ngram and Wikipedia results for ‘stethoscope’ and ‘Syringe’

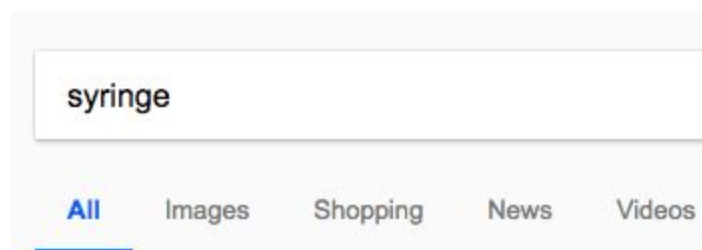
*YouTube search results*



*Google search results*





About 99,000,000 results (0.40 seconds)



About 58,700,000 results (0.36 seconds)

### Bing search results



All

Images

Videos

Maps

News

|


My saves

9,160,000 Results

Date ▾

Language ▾

Region ▾



All

Images

Videos

3,880,000 Results

Date ▾

### Google Ngram search results

Google Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases:  ☐ case-insensitive

between  and  from the corpus  with smoothing of  [Search lots of books](#)



## Wikipedia search results



### ii. Multiple Usages:

The stethoscope could represent both medical and common conversation expression

- The stethoscope is used to express high levels of heart pumping and adrenaline.
- The stethoscope alongside the HEART, signifies the sound of the heart, or heavy beating or the common phrase 'Listen to your heart'
- The stethoscope is heavily used in a medical setting
- The stethoscope is used heavily by medical students and is usually the first item they are asked to obtain as part of their coursework.

### iii. Use in Sequences

The stethoscope is a singular item and will work effectively alone. However, it can be used in sequence. E.g. STETHOSCOPE + HEART = Listen to your heart

### C: IMAGE DISTINCTIVENESS

The STETHOSCOPE is clearly identifiable – even on a small screen as an emoji character. It is clearly differentiated from other characters of related shapes or colours.

### D: COMPLETENESS

The addition of a STETHOSCOPE emoji would be an important addition as it is globally recognised and would be a step in expanding the small quadrant of medical characters included in the objects section and broaden the currently limited representation of medical objects, which is currently occupied by only two characters – U+1F489 (SYRINGE) and U+1F48A (PILL)

### E: FREQUENCY REQUEST

A cursory search of the phrase “stethoscope emoji” on Twitter reveals plenty of demand for the character. A small sample from the past couple of months:

“Awww the way Derek proposed was soo medically romantic \*inserts stethoscope emoji\* 🩺.”<sup>4</sup>

“\*not truly happy until there’s a stethoscope emoji”<sup>5</sup>

“I need a stethoscope emoji, it’s an emergency”<sup>6</sup>

“I think Apple needs to come out with a stethoscope emoji”<sup>7</sup>

“The #TheGoodDoctor comes on this Monday so excitedddd 🩺 there is no stethoscope emoji 🙄”<sup>8</sup>

“Where’s the stethoscope emoji?”<sup>9</sup>

“i cant find any stethoscope emoji”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [Akoss \(enobeno\\_\). “Awww the way Derek proposed was soo medically romantic\\* inserts stethoscope emoji\\*.” 6 Jan 2018, 6:08PM Tweet.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [kara\(KaraNielsen\). “\\*not truly happy until there’s a stethoscope emoji” 18 Dec 2017, 5:42PM Tweet.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Death cab for kimmy \(clickbaitbaby\). “I need a stethoscope emoji, it’s an emergency” 22 Nov 2017 10:28PM Tweet.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Britany \(Optimusgold\). “I think Apple needs to come out with a stethoscope emoji” 23 Dec 2017 11:02PM Tweet.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [MaK\(Kkenna22\). “The #TheGoodDoctor comes on this Monday so excitedddd 🩺 there is no stethoscope emoji 🙄” 11 Nov 2017 4:41PM Tweet.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Coco Gonzalez \(cocogonzalez26\). “Where’s the stethoscope emoji?” 10 Nov 2017 5:25AM Tweet](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Nika \(nnekajanelle\). “i cant find any stethoscope emoji” 14 Dec 2017 3:25PM Tweet](#)

## **5. FACTORS FOR EXCLUSION**

### **F. OVERLY SPECIFIC**

The STETHOSCOPE emoji is not overly specific and is used by billions of people and medical facilities worldwide. The STETHOSCOPE can be used in a wide range of contexts in addition to its main connotation.

### **G: OPEN ENDED**

The STETHOSCOPE is a distinct object with a specific and unique purpose and doesn't open up a direct open-ended set of related symbols. It is part of a limited set of medical emoji that are both iconic and widely used.

### **H: ALREADY REPRESENTABLE**

There is no easy way to convey the stethoscope using existing emoji. Existing representations of HEALTH WORKER and SYRINGE are too specific and would not be suitable as a substitute for stethoscope.

### **I: Logos, Brands, UI Icons, Signage, Specific People, Deities**

The stethoscope is suitable for encoding as a character. It does not contain any references to deities, logos, specific people, historical or living. It is a common item that is universally recognisable.

### **J: TRANSIENT**

The stethoscope has been around for over 200 years and has demonstrated staying power and is used by billions daily around the world.

### **K: FAULTY COMPARISON**

The submission for stethoscope is one made on its own merits – in line with the Unicode selection factors for inclusion – and it avoids the factors for exclusion. No case is made that the stethoscope emoji should be included due to other emojis, emoji patterns – or due to comparison.

## 6. SORT LOCATION

### A. CATEGORY

The stethoscope should be inserted within the “Objects” section of the emoji language

### B. EMOJI BEFORE

There are a few places that this would effectively fit, but it is recommended to fit after PILL and before SYRINGE. This would place it with other MEDICAL related objects.

## Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type: Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored: N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

## Bios

**Melissa Thermidor** ([melissa.thermidor@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:melissa.thermidor@nhsbt.nhs.uk)) is the Social Media Lead at NHS Blood and Transplant and a New Yorker who now lives in London. She is passionate about using social media to save and improve lives.

**Jennifer 8. Lee** ([jenny@emojicon.co](mailto:jenny@emojicon.co)) is the founder of Emojination and a big fan of health and hygiene emoji slate. She is probably one of the few Asian Americans whose parents explicitly advised that she should not become a doctor.